

Free Speech in America vs. Other Countries

Objective: The objective for this lesson is to foster greater understanding and appreciation for American free speech rights through comparison with other countries.

Materials: Enes Kanter Freedom video and student essay (included.) Student internet or library access is necessary for optional student assignments.

Time required: This lesson can be completed in one class period, but it could stretch to two classes if students receive the optional assignment as classwork/homework.

Lesson Prompt: Show the Enes Kanter video and engage students with the following discussion questions:

Have you heard of Enes Kanter Freedom before? What do you know about Turkey?

What is the First Amendment? What does it say?

Are there any limits to free speech in America? What are they? (To learn more about these, visit our [lesson archive](#), and the “Unprotected Speech” PDF attached to this lesson.)

Do other countries have a First Amendment? Why or why not? What sort of speech laws do you think they have?

Have you ever heard of speech being suppressed in other countries? What kind of stories do you know about?

Is speech ever suppressed in America? Can you give any examples?

What about self-censorship? Do people sometimes have freedom of speech but don't use it? Why might this happen? What can be done about that?

Is it helpful when famous people, like athletes, make political statements? Or when they stand up for principles like free speech? Is it ever harmful? What do you think?

What kind of free speech laws do they have in other countries?

What can we learn about American rights from immigrants, or from people from other countries?



FREE SPEECH IN AMERICA VS. OTHER COUNTRIES

Assignment: Have students read the attached student essay about their experiences with speech restrictions in other countries.

Discussion questions after the essay:

What are your reactions to the essay you read?

Were you aware that these situations happen in other countries?

How does the United States compare?

Optional Classwork or Homework Assignment: Have students pick a country and re-search their speech laws. Report the findings to the class or submit as a 1-2 page writing assignment. Alternative Assignment: Identify a person who has faced speech restrictions in the United States or in another country. (Hint: Some of these have become [famous Supreme Court cases](#) in the United States.) Report the findings to the class or submit as a 1-2 page writing assignment.

